



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

Twenty years ago today, President George H. W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which gives more than 50 million Americans — including more than four million Texans — protection from discrimination in employment and better access to goods, services and information.

Even before the ADA, Texas worked to include people with disabilities in all aspects of life. In 1918, the Texas State Library began to provide raised-letter books for persons who were blind; in 1921, Disabled American Veterans was formed in Fort Worth; in 1929 and 1931, respectively, the Texas Legislature passed the Texas Vocational Rehabilitation Act and formed the State Committee for the Blind; in 1948, the first Texas Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities was formed in Harris County; and in 1950, the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities was created. In 1983, Texas passed a law prohibiting employment discrimination against people with disabilities.

Since ADA, Texas businesses and government entities have done even more, accommodating employees and clients with disabilities by providing flexible work hours, sign language interpreters and accessible web sites, and by purchasing adaptive technology when needed. Expanded opportunities for Texans with disabilities include increased funding for health- and disability-related research, increased accessibility to buildings and information, improved assistance during emergencies, and increased opportunities for Texans with developmental disabilities to live in community-based settings.

On this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the ADA, we in Texas have much to celebrate, and we also still have much to work toward. I urge all Texans to continue to work toward the noble principles of the ADA — equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. We all benefit when everyone can participate in all facets of life in our state.

Therefore I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, do hereby proclaim July 26, 2010, to be

**ADA Awareness Day**

in Texas, and urge the appropriate recognition whereof.

In official recognition whereof,  
I hereby affix my signature this the  
23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2010.



*Rick Perry*  
Governor of Texas